

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following rewritten paragraph:

- [0014] As used herein, an active substance includes any of one or more substances that produces or promotes a beneficial therapeutic, physiological, homeopathic and/or ~~pharmalogical~~ pharmacological effect on the body. Such beneficial effects may be brought upon any animal or human patient, and various systems associated therewith, including the immune system, respiratory system, circulatory system, nervous system, digestive system, urinary system, reproductive system, endocrine system, muscular system, skeletal system, and the like, as well as any organs, tissues, membranes, cells, and subcellular components associated therewith.

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following rewritten paragraph:

- [0015] As will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, beneficial effects include assisting the more efficient functioning of the various systems described above, such as, for example, helping the body fight sickness and disease, helping the body to heal, etc. Exemplary active substances include any element, composition or material producing a beneficial effect, including vitamins, minerals, nucleic acids, amino acids, peptides, polypeptides, proteins, genes, mutagens, antiviral agents, antibacterial agents, anti-inflammatory agents, decongestants, histamines, anti-histamines, anti-allergens, allergy-relief substances, ~~homeopathic~~ homeopathic substances, pharmaceutical substances, and the like.

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0031] Zinc may also act as a decongestant. It is believed that zinc enhances discharge of mucous and inhibits the generation of new mucous. When a gelled matrix comprising zinc is applied to the nasal cavity, zinc ions diffuse from the gel matrix into the mucous or mucous membrane in the nasal cavity. It is believed that the zinc concentration in the mucous or mucous membrane creates a barrier which inhibits viral infection of the nasal epithelial membrane. As ionic zinc is absorbed from the gel into the mucous membrane and other nasal epithelial cells, the gel matrix permits new zinc to diffuse into the nasal membrane. The gel matrix has micelle cell-like properties which facilitate the diffusion of zinc, and other ~~active~~ active substances, through the gel matrix. The homeopathic concentration of zinc ions in the zinc gel of the invention is about 4 millimolar (mM) to about 60 millimolar, preferably about 20 mM to about 44 mM. Concentrations of zinc in excess of 44 mM are not preferred unless an antioxidant or other component is included in the gel composition to protect the nasal epithelial membrane from abnormally high concentrations of zinc.

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0033] Likewise, the thickener component or components may be utilized to form colloidal solutions (*i.e.*, suspensions) in order to increase the viscosity of the carrier in the nasal gel composition. Suitable thickeners may include any acceptable thickener, such as food-grade or pharmaceutical-grade thickeners, including, for example, glycerin, carrageenan, sugar, guar gum, methylcellulose, carbohydrate ~~thickness~~ thickeners, aloe barbadensis gel (aloe vera), and the like, as well as other gels, gelling

agents, antiseptics, preservatives, permeation enhancers, sequestering agents, buffers, emulsifiers, and the like. The presently preferred concentration for thickeners is 0.000001% to 5.0% by weight.